



27 May 20 13

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair, Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Legislation Committee Senate
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Mission Australia
580 George Street
Sydney
NSW 2000
P O Box 3515

www.missionaustralia.com.au

Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Senator Crossin,

Exceptions to the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identify and Intersex Status) Bill 2013

Mission Australia supports the above legislation and the measures it contains to extend the protection from discrimination to include the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status. As a non-denominational Christian community services organisation we provide a wide range of services funded by government and donations to people in need without judgment regardless of their beliefs, background or sexual identity. We do so consistent with our mission, vision and values.

Mission Australia receives government funding to provide residential aged care for aged homeless people or aged people at risk of homelessness, and does not discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status in the provision of these services. We are concerned for the operation of the exemption to religious organisations for the provision of government funded residential aged care by these organisations. We do not consider such an exemption should apply to the provision of goods and services such as residential aged care, which may otherwise be used to discriminate on the above grounds in the provision of these services.

Mission Australia therefore seeks your support in having the Bill amended so as not to retain an exception available to religious bodies in the provision of government funded aged care services.

Yours sincerely,

Toby Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Mission Australia